

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>
SUBJECT	Possible Successor for Pieck	DATE DISTR.	18 May 1954
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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SOURCE:

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An East German journalist who talked with prominent members of the East German Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry for Reconstruction gained the impression that Wilhelm Pieck's resignation as President of the GDR was expected

Dieckmann, who at present is President of the People's Chamber, and Max Seydewitz, formerly Minister President of Saxony, are considered to be candidates for the post of President of the GDR.

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Comment: Rumors that Wilhelm Pieck is going to resign have been circulating for some time. It appears to be correct that Pieck's state of health is rather precarious. Dieckmann is frequently mentioned as a possible successor to Wilhelm Pieck. However, his chances in this respect may be hampered by the fact that he belongs to the LDP. So far, there is no evidence of a tendency to make Grotewohl President of the GDR.

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